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"Hustle and Heart"



HUSTLE AND HEART

by Bob York



Since Deerfield reintroduced coeducation in the fall of 1989, the vast majority of its 15 girls varsity programs have realized the thrill of victory—some standing atop the medals podium following a league tournament, some after a New England championship, and others after a national title.

Girls crew, one of a few prep school sports to offer competition on a national stage, has enabled the Big Green to spread its bragging rights from coast-to-coast by capturing its bracket of the Youth National Championships the past two years. As for New England crowns: cross-country, swimming, squash, hockey, skiing, and water polo have all been there, done that. Soccer, tennis, lacrosse, and softball, meanwhile, have league pennants hanging from their respective trophy cases.

Davis. “We’ve had only four coaches (Karinne Heise, Kim Wright, Kristen (Viega) McVaugh, and Katie Calhoun, who filled in for McVaugh last year) over 26 years. Plus, we’ve been blessed with a lot of outstanding athletes over the years.”

Under Karinne Heise’s guidance, the program quickly flexed its muscles. Following a 4-6-2 debut—one of just three losing seasons to date—Deerfield went 15-1-1 in its third season to capture its first of five consecutive league crowns; in 1992 the Big Green (17-0-1) claimed a New England title.

“It was a thrill to coach that first team,” said Ms. Heise. “The girls were excited and well aware that they were starting a tradition.”

As for highlights from those formative years, she recalls when “Heather Morgan ’92

“We’re all excited about the upcoming season,” added Heaney, who has led a lockdown defense with 19 shutouts over three seasons. She owns a stingy 0.88 goals against average and a .916 save percentage. “We have a lot of talent returning and should have some talented newcomers, too.”

Yue, who earned all-league honors last fall, has been a catalyst on defense for the past three years, and with some familiar faces surrounding her once again, feels as though “we should have an outstanding season.”

Anna Ballou ’16 and Maia Taylor ’16 also bring experience and talent to a defensive unit that posted nine shutouts and allowed single tallies in five other games, including a pair of 1-0 setbacks.

McGowan, who registered 16 points on 12 goals

“Everyone on this team contributed to its success,” said McGowan, whose overtime goal against Choate in last year’s final regular-season game secured Deerfield’s playoff berth, “and if we play the same way this year, we should make it back to postseason play.”

But Deerfield’s most storied girls’ program is undoubtedly field hockey. Since its first game, on September 7, 1989, the Big Green has consistently ranked among the elite of the Western New England Prep School Girls Field Hockey Association, and it pulls rank as one of the premier programs throughout New England, as well.

“1989 was my first year here,” says Athletic Director Chip Davis, “and what I remember most about the field hockey team was that it showed no growing pains; it came out of the chute fast and the program’s never slowed down.”

Mr. Davis’ plaudits are well founded. The Big Green has chalked up a 252-94-35 record over 26 seasons and has qualified for 22 of 26 New England Prep School Athletic Council tournaments. As for bling, it owns one New England crown and six league titles.

“I think a key to the program’s success has been the continuity of our coaching staff,” said

scored on a penalty stroke to give us our first win ever—a win over NMH . . . and Marissa Arredondo ’93 scored both goals in our 2-0 win over Andover in that New England championship game.”

This fall’s team should be a mirror image of the majority of its predecessors: it should be tourney bound. Thirteen players are returning from last fall’s team that went 11-4-1, including five seniors—tri-captains Katherine Heaney, Nina McGowan, and Emily Yue, as well as Elizabeth Grownney and Maia Taylor—who have been teammates for the past three years. Their talents have helped boost Deerfield to a 31-10-4 mark during that span, plus three consecutive tournament invites.

“We’re not only shooting to make the tournament, but we’d like to make it further this season than we have the last three years,” said Heaney, last season’s all-tournament goalie, of three straight quarterfinal-round losses.

and four assists last season, should lead the point production, while Katherine Goguen ’16, Elizabeth Grownney ’16, who earned all-league status, Julia Dixon ’16, and Anya Shevzov-Zebrun ’17 are proven scorers as well.

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“We had a great run last year,” recounted Calhoun of a season that saw Deerfield drop five games, four by a one-goal margin, including a 2-1 loss to Hotchkiss in its one-and-done tourney appearance. “I’m really so proud of these kids,” added their skipper of a team that was presented the prestigious Sportsmanship Award by the league referees. “This was an extremely tight-knit group . . . one of the closest I’ve ever been associated with,” added Calhoun, “and that’s why we’ll have three captains this season.” //



DEERFIELD ACADEMY